

# Cambridge Police Department BridgeStat

February 2023

Produced by the Crime Analysis Unit





# Part I Total Crime

An analysis of serious crime statistics for February of 2023 points to a sizable increase of 28% in the Part One index total for Cambridge when compared with February of 2022. During the first two months of this year, there were 414 serious crimes reported in the City. For the same time period in 2022, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 323 incidents. When measured against the five-year average, a 22% rise in the crime index has been registered.

Further analysis of the crime totals for the first two months of 2023 indicates that violent crimes recorded a 12% increase to start the year when compared with last year. Similarly, property crimes rose 31% with 86 additional crimes reported when compared with the first two months of 2022. There were zero homicides, five rapes, nine robberies, and 33 aggravated assaults recorded in the first 58 days of 2023.

The 162% increase in shoplifting, the 57% rise in aggravated assault, and the 67% increase in bicycle larcenies when compared with 2022 are the key trend indicators observed so far in 2023 that have driven the upward curve in the crime index for February. Conversely, overall robberies decreased by 47% from 17 to nine incidents and larcenies from motor vehicles dropped 11% from 72 thefts to 64 when comparing the first two months of 2023 with that of 2022.

When analyzing the serious crime totals of February of 2023 versus the previous month of January 2022, there has been a temperate increase of 20% in the number of index incidents with 36 more crimes reported.

An analysis of end-of-the-year serious crime statistics for Cambridge in 2022 reveals a moderate increase of 11% in the Part One index total reported to the FBI when compared with the same time period in 2021. In 2022, there were 2,894 serious crimes reported in the City. Through December 31<sup>st</sup> in 2021, the combined total for Murder, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny & Auto theft was 2,597 incidents.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	1/3/23 - 1/30/23	1/31/23 - 2/27/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Total Violent Crime	22	25	14%	42	47	12%	41	15%
Total Property Crime	162	195	20%	281	367	31%	298	23%
Total Part I Crime	184	220	20%	323	414	28%	339	22%





# Part I Property Crime

Analysis of property crime totals for February of 2023 reveals a 31% increase when measured against the February 2022 totals and a 23% rise above the five-year average of 298.

A majority of the property crime categories below recorded inclines when measured against the first two months of 2022, most notably a 162% jump in shopliftings (up 47 incidents), a 67% rise in bike thefts (up 16 incidents), a 133% increase in commercial breaks (up 4 incidents) and a 29% rise in thefts from residences (up 13). Meanwhile, larcenies from motor vehicles dropped 11% (down 8 thefts), auto thefts slipped 16% (down 3 incidents), and housebreaks decreased by 29% (down 9 incidents).

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	1/3/23 - 1/30/23	1/31/23 - 2/27/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Burglary	15	13	-13%	34	29	-15%	28	4%
Commercial Break	5	2	-60%	3	7	133%	6	17%
Housebreak	10	11	10%	31	22	-29%	23	-4%
Larceny	142	172	21%	228	322	41%	257	25%
Larceny (Misc)	5	7	40%	10	12	20%	7	71%
Larceny from Building	17	20	18%	35	39	<b>11</b> %	35	11%
Larceny from MV	29	31	<b>7</b> %	72	64	-11%	64	0%
Larceny from Person	8	8	0%	7	16	129%	13	23%
Larceny from Residence	26	31	19%	45	58	29%	59	-2%
Larceny of Bicycle	17	23	35%	24	40	67%	33	<b>21</b> %
Larceny of Plate	5	6	20%	4	11	175%	3	267%
Larceny of Services	3	3	0%	2	6	200%	2	200%
Shoplifting	32	43	34%	29	76	162%	42	81%
Auto Theft	5	10	100%	19	16	-16%	13	23%
Total Property Crime	162	195	20%	281	367	31%	298	23%





# Part I Violent Crime

From January 1<sup>st</sup> to February 27<sup>th</sup> of 2023, there were 47 violent crimes recorded in Cambridge, five incidents (+12%) above last year's two-month total of 42 and six incidents above the 41 crimes forecasted for the first two months of the year.

There have been five rapes reported in Cambridge thus far in 2023, one more than was reported during the first two months of 2022. The rapes reported in 2023 have been categorized as one domestic incident, one acquaintance incident, two contact scenarios, and one blitz assault.

The trend observed during the past couple years of a high percentage of aggravated assaults and street robberies occurring in Central Square and on peripheral side streets has at least temporarily subsided during 2023. So far, two months into the year, only eight of the 33 aggravated assaults and none of the three street robberies were reported in the Central Square area.

For only the fourth time in 20 years, no murders were reported in Cambridge in 2022 and this trend has continued through February of 2023. The last murder in Cambridge took place on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021, on Pemberton St. It remains under investigation.

	4 Week Snapshot		Year to Date			<u>Five Year</u>		
	1/3/23 - 1/30/23	1/31/23 - 2/27/23	Change	2022	2023	Change	Avg	Change
Homicide	0	0	IN-CALC	0	0	IN-CALC	0	IN-CALC
Rape	2	3	50%	4	5	25%	3	67%
Robbery	3	6	100%	17	9	-47%	11	-18%
Commercial Robbery	1	5	400%	4	6	50%	3	100%
Street Robbery	2	1	-50%	13	3	-77%	8	-63%
Aggravated Assault	17	16	-6%	21	33	57%	26	27%
Total Violent Crime	22	25	14%	42	47	12%	41	15%



# **MURDER**

### No Patterns

- No murders have been reported in Cambridge in 2023 through February 27<sup>th</sup>.\*
- There were no murders recorded in Cambridge in 2022.
   This has happened only three other times in the past 20 years—in 2004, 2007, and 2010.
- In the last reported homicide in Cambridge, on Saturday 3/27/21, there was a fatal shooting that occurred at approximately 12:40 a.m. on Pemberton Street. The victim was reportedly located unconscious outside his vehicle by a passerby who called 911. The victim was transported to Mount Auburn Hospital where he later died. The victim has been identified as Xavier Louis-Jacques, 19, of Cambridge. The investigation is ongoing.
- On April 23, 2020, Jose Bermudez was arrested for the fatal daylight stabbing of 33-year-old Danilo Perez in Central Square on April 14. Bermudez and Perez were both part of the homeless community and were known to each other. Bermudez is being held without bail. This was the only homicide recorded in 2020.
- There was one murder in Cambridge in 2019. The Middlesex DA's Office and the Cambridge Police are asking for public assistance regarding the ongoing investigation into the fatal incident that occurred in the New Street area of Danehy Park around 6:30PM on the night of January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. This incident is being investigated as a homicide. The preliminary investigation suggests that the victim, 60-year-old Paul Wilson, died as a result of blunt force trauma and that robbery does not appear to have been the motive.

### **Percent Change\***

Previous Year 5-Year Average

0% 0%

**Last 4 Weeks** 

0%

\*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.



<sup>\*</sup> Please note: These figures exclude the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.



# RAPE

## No Patterns

 There were five rapes reported in Cambridge through February of 2023, one more than was reported through the same time in 2022. The rapes reported in 2023 have been categorized as one domestic incident, one acquaintance incident, two contact scenarios, and one blitz assault.

#### 2022 Review:

- Final counts indicate that there were 43
  rapes reported in 2022, seven more than
  were reported during the same time frame
  last year. The total is also 13 incidents above
  the five-year average of 30 crimes.
- The 43 rapes reported in 2022 have been categorized as 23 acquaintance incidents, five blitz scenarios, 10 domestic incidents, four contact assaults, and a home invasion. One of the blitz incidents did result in an arrest.
- The total number of reported rapes tends to fluctuate from year to year, but the number of stranger-to-stranger rapes reported each year in Cambridge—typically between one and five—remains extremely low.

### **Percent Change\***

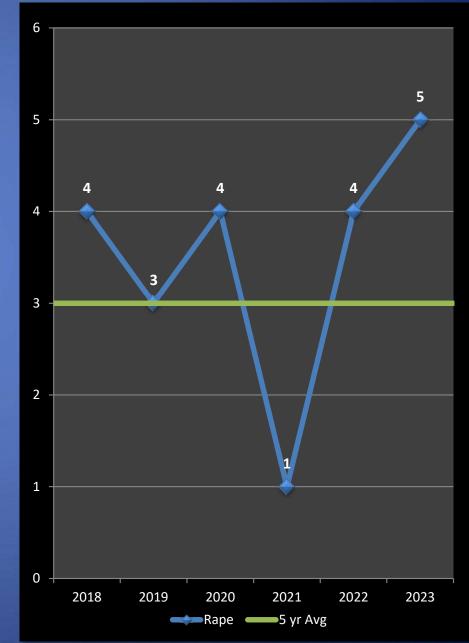
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

50% 25%

67%

5-Year Average

\*IN -CAL: Percentages are not calculated for numbers so small as to present a statistically misleading percentage.





# AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

## No Patterns

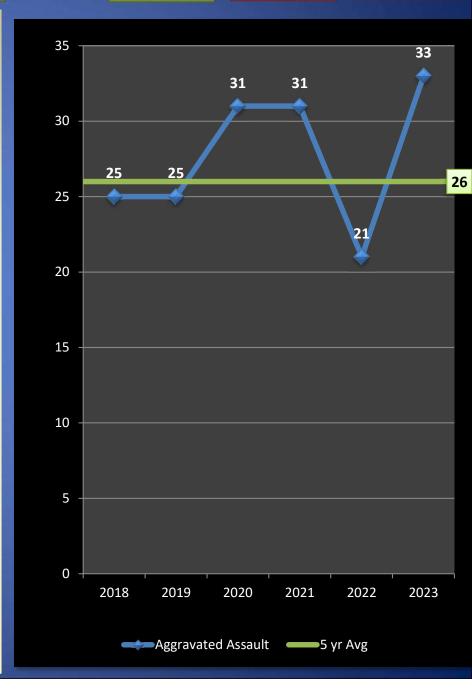
- The total of 33 aggravated assaults reported through February of 2023 was 12 crimes (+57%) above the total for the first two months of 2022, as well as seven incidents (+27%) above the five-year average of 26 crimes.
- The 33 aggravated assaults reported over the first eight weeks of this year were comprised of the following classifications: 8 unprovoked scenarios; 7 domestic altercations; 5 psychotic episodes; 4 juvenile-related assaults; 3 assaults between acquaintances; 2 affrays/brawls; and one each of the following: shop owner/patron assault, landlord/neighbor assault, drug deal gone awry, and a trafficand-parking incident.
- The trend observed during the past couple years of a high percentage of aggravated assaults occurring in Central Square and on peripheral side streets has at least temporarily subsided in 2023. Thus far in 2023, only eight of the 33 aggravated assaults citywide were reported in Central Sq.
- There has been one confirmed shots fired incident in Cambridge through February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023\*, resulting in the non-fatal shooting of two victims on Washington St. Through the same time period in 2022, there were three shots fired incidents, none of which resulted in gunshot wounds. See map on slide 9 for more info.
- \* Please note: This figure excludes the fatal Cambridge Police officer-involved shooting of Sayed Faisal on January 4, 2023.

#### 2022 Review:

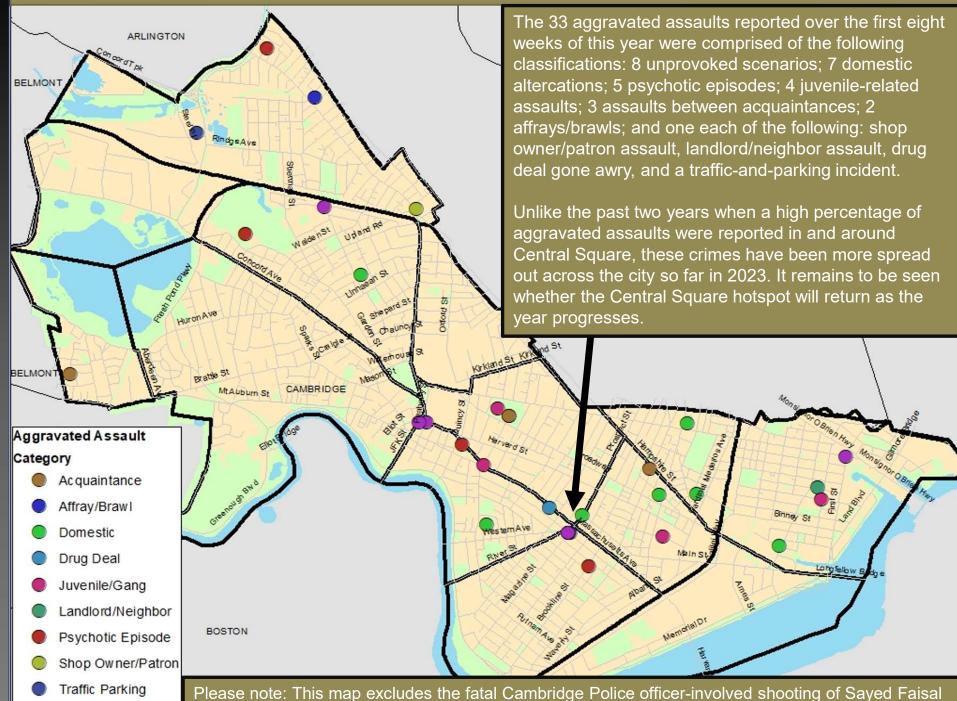
• The final total of 258 aggravated assaults reported in 2022 is 49 crimes (+23%) above the 2021 total and 63 incidents (+32%) above the five-year average of 195 crimes.

### **Percent Change**





# Geographic Breakdown of Aggravated Assaults: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



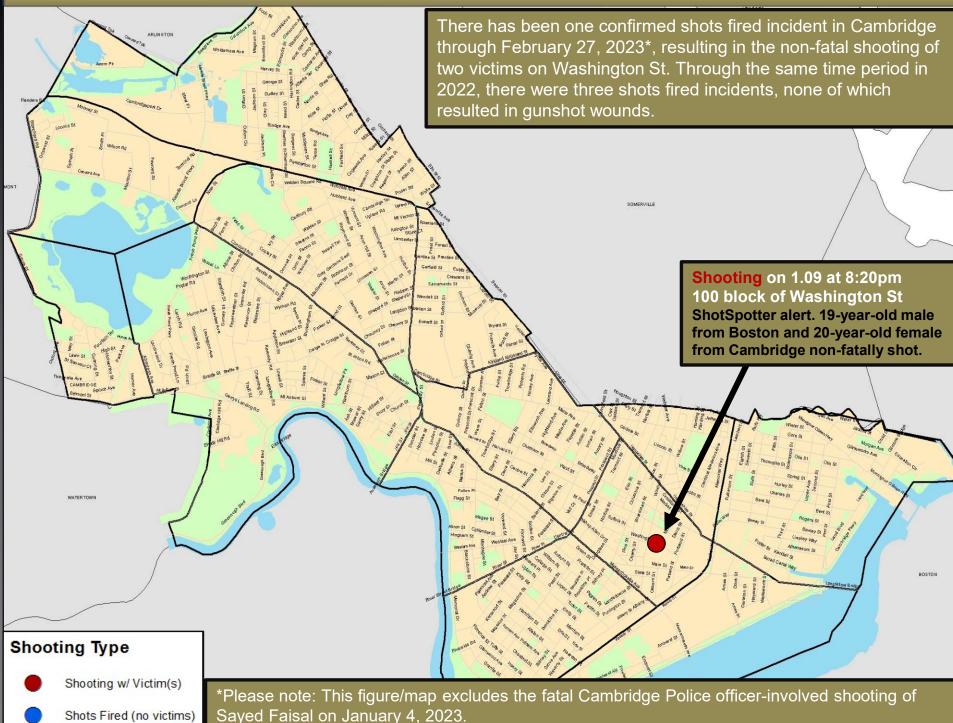
on January 4, 2023.

February 2023

Unprovoked



# Confirmed Shots Fired and Shootings in Cambridge: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



**February** 2023

Shots Fired (no victims)



# Robbery

No Patterns

- The five-year average for overall robbery in Cambridge for the first two months of the year is 11 incidents. Through February 27<sup>th</sup> of 2023, nine robberies were recorded, which translates to an 18% decrease below the projected total and a 47% decline below the 17 robberies counted for the first two months of 2022.
- Commercial robberies in 2023 jumped from one incident in January to five in February, increasing the total to six yearto-date. This total is 50% above the four robberies reported through February 27th of last year and 100% above the fiveyear average of three. All six robberies in 2023 have been unrelated, and three have resulted in arrests or summonses.
- Street robberies year-to-date in 2023 are down 77% from the 13 reported through this time in 2022 and are down 63% from the five-year average of eight. All three street robberies reported so far in 2023 have been unrelated.

#### 2022 Review:

- Official statistics for 2022 indicate that 95 robberies were recorded in Cambridge, equaling a 40% increase (+27 incidents) above the 68 robberies counted in 2021. The total reported in 2022 was also 20 incidents (+27%) above the five-year weighted average of 75.
- There were 18 commercial robberies (up 64% over 2021) and 77 street robberies (up 35% over 2021) recorded in Cambridge during 2022.
- Forty-seven of the 77 street robberies in 2022 were concentrated in and around Central Square, with the predominant scenario involving a few predatory suspects stealing cell phones/personal belongings from unhoused individuals around the Square. This continued a trend that emerged over the last few months of 2021.

### **Percent Change**

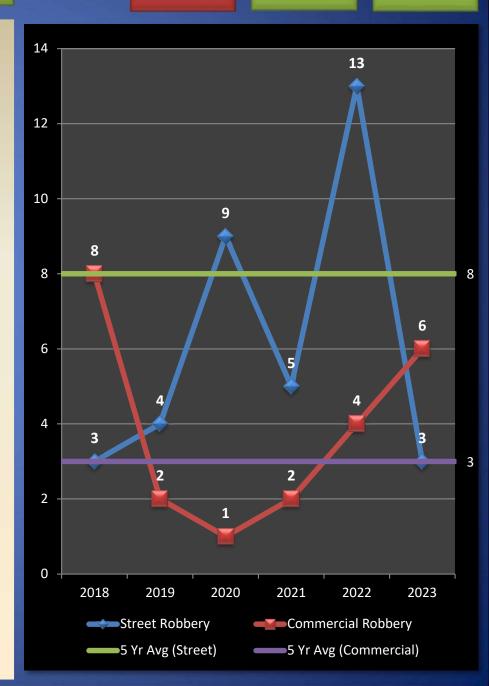
**Previous Year Last 4 Weeks** 

+100%

-47%

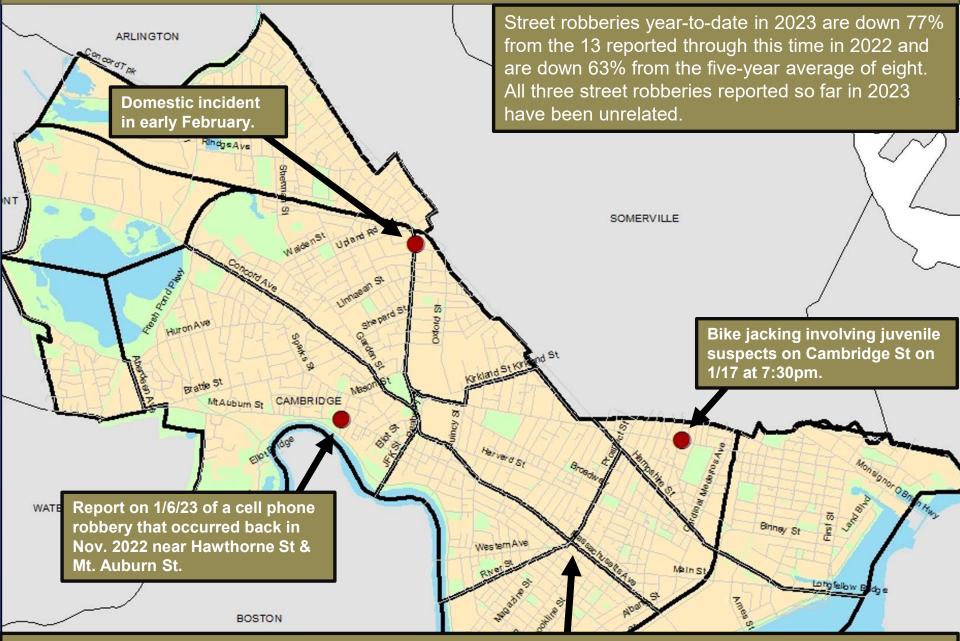
-18%

5-Year Average





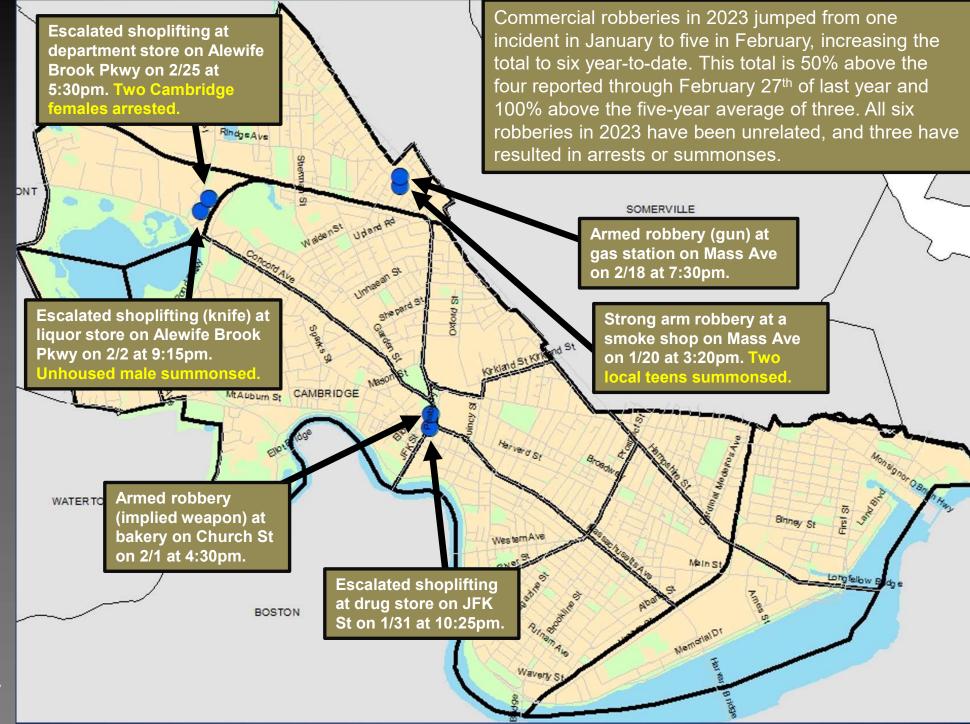
# Geographic Breakdown of Street Robberies: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



Unlike in January and February 2022 when seven of the 13 reported street robberies were committed in and around the periphery of Central Square, continuing a trend of increased activity in the area that began in 2021, none of the street (or commercial) robberies so far in 2023 have taken place anywhere near Central Square. It remains to be seen whether this is a reversing trend or just a temporary reprieve.



# Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Robberies: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23





# Burglary

No Patterns

Percent Change

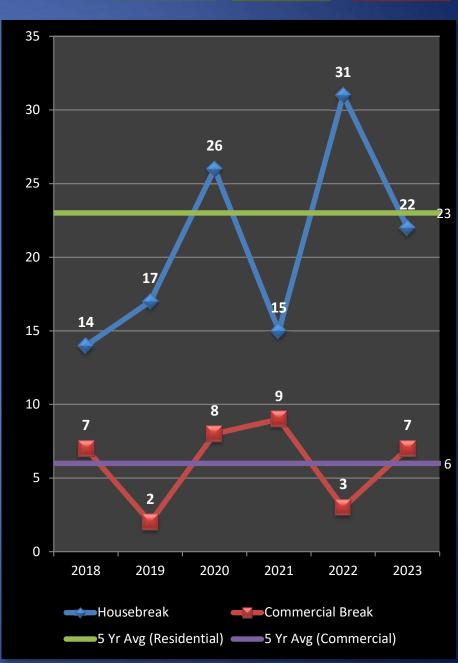
Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average

-13% -15% +4%

- The property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, has recorded an increase of 4% in February of 2023 when compared to the five-year average, with one additional incident reported above the projected total of 28 breaks. When compared with last year's total of 34 incidents for the first two months of the year, a 15% decrease has been registered (down five incidents in 2023).
- Housebreaks year-to-date in 2023 have decreased by nine incidents when compared to 2022 (dropping 29% from 31 to 22), while commercial breaks have risen by four crimes (+133%), from three in 2022 to seven in 2023.

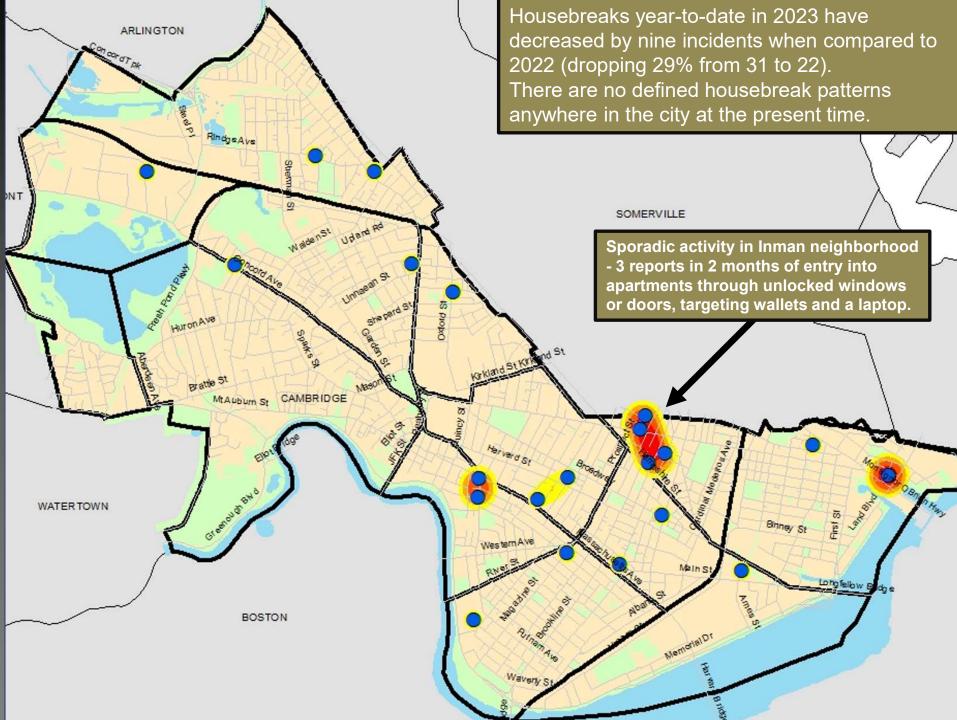
#### 2022 Review:

- Final end-of-the-year statistics for the property index crime of burglary, the combination of residential and commercial breaks, reveal that an increase of 32% was recorded in 2022 when compared with 2021.
- The large increase in overall burglaries in 2022 can be attributed to a 65% spike in housebreaks this year, rising from 124 in 2021 to 205 in 2022. Despite the large increase, very little defined pattern activity was observed.
- There were 53 commercial breaks reported in 2022, four incidents (-7%) below the 57 crimes forecasted for the year. After nearly 18 months of registering increases during the Covid period, this target crime in 2022 registered a decrease of 26% below 2021's total of 72, with 19 fewer incidents recorded.



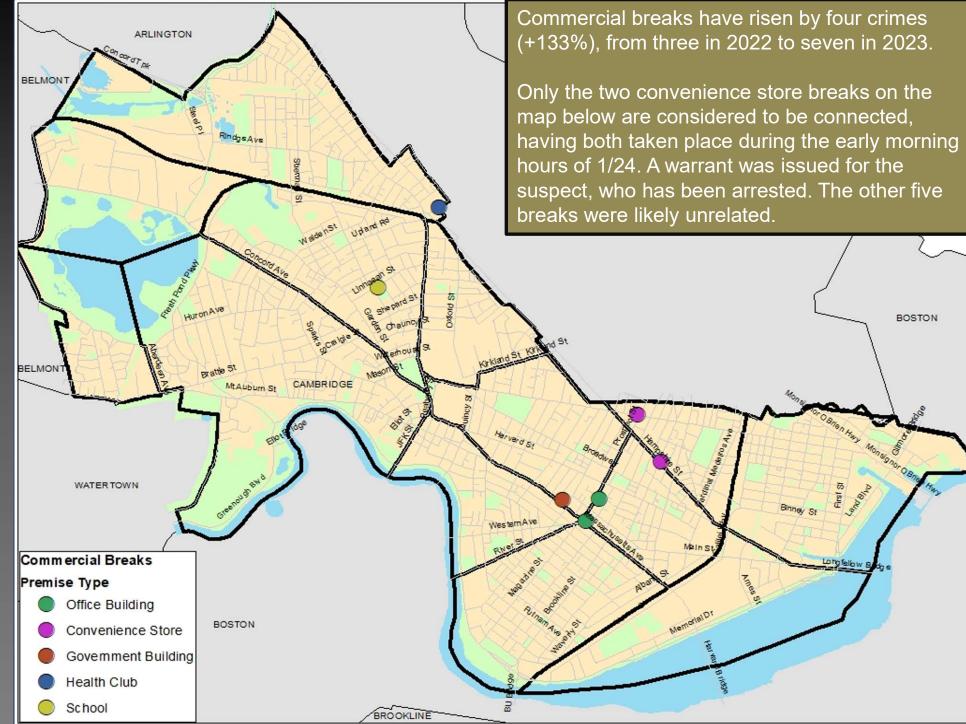


# Geographic Breakdown of Housebreaks: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23





# Geographic Breakdown of Commercial Breaks: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23





# LARCENY

No Patterns

- Preliminary stats indicate that overall larceny through February 2023 is registering at 322 incidents, 41% above the same time frame in 2022. The total of 322 larcenies reported year-to-date in 2023 is also 25% above the 5-year average of 257 incidents.
- The larceny from motor vehicles total through 2/27 in 2023 is 64 incidents, 11% below the same time frame in 2022. The 64 thefts reported are spot on with the number forecasted for 2023. The decrease in 2023 compared to last year can be attributed at least in part to a drop in catalytic converter thefts so far in 2023—in 2022, 26 were reported through February, while only 17 have been reported so far this year.
- Through February 27, 2023, there were 16 larcenies from the person reported in Cambridge, up nine incidents (129%) compared to the same time period in 2022. The 2023 total is also up 23% (3 incidents) over the 5-year average of 13. Central Square has seen the most activity so far this year with nine incidents.
- There were 39 larcenies from buildings reported through February **2023.** This total is four incidents (+11%) above both the number reported during the same time frame in 2022 and the 5-year average. Some of the increase can be attributed to a continued trend of thefts from lockers at a local gym in Porter Sq.
- Larcenies from residences are up 13 incidents (29%) in 2023 when compared with 2022. Package thefts have made up the majority of this crime type in recent years and registered even higher than average in 2020-2022, likely due to the increased volume of deliveries during the pandemic. Package thefts have accounted for 41 (or 71%) of the 58 larcenies from residences thus far in 2023.
- There were 40 larcenies of bicycles reported through February 27th of 2023. This total is 16 incidents (+67%) above last year's total and seven incidents (+21%) above the five-year average of 33. The warmer and less snowy weather this year when compared to 2022 may partly be a cause for the minor increase so far in 2023, as overall ridership may have remained higher this year.

### **Percent Change**

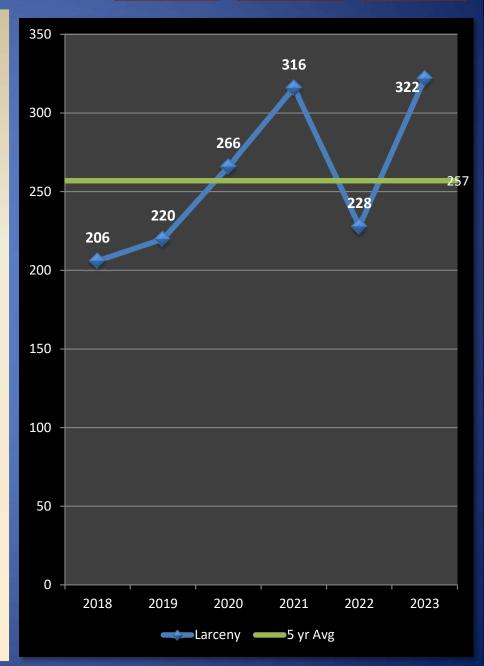
**Previous Year Last 4 Weeks** 

+21%

+41%

+25%

5-Year Average





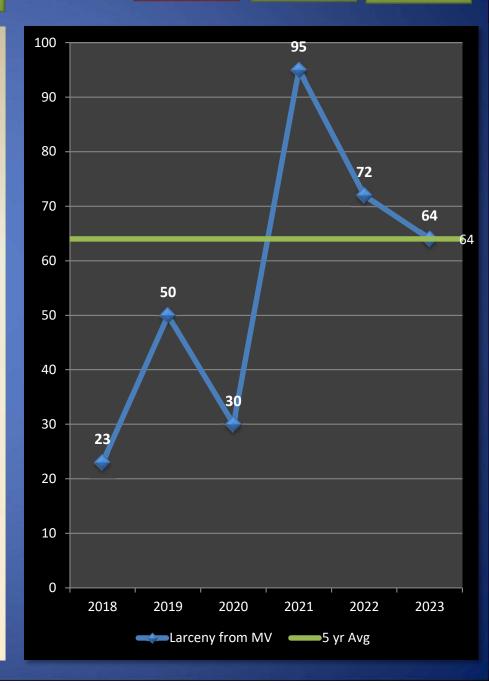
# LARCENY From MV

No Patterns

- The larceny from motor vehicle total for the first two months of 2023 is 64 incidents, which is 11% below the total for the same time period in 2022. The 64 thefts from cars reported thus far in 2023 is spot on with the number forecasted through the first eight weeks of 2023.
- The neighborhoods with the highest larceny from motor vehicle totals so far in 2023 are: North Cambridge (19), Mid-Cambridge (13), Peabody (10), and Riverside (8).
- Comparing the last four weeks (February) to the previous four (January), there was a 7% increase in larcenies from motor vehicles, with two additional crimes reported.
- Catalytic converter thefts became a problem in Cambridge in January of 2021. Surges continued sporadically throughout 2021 and 2022, with at least 128 reported in 2022 alone. This activity has not been as prolific in 2023, with only 17 incidents reported this year compared to the 26 thefts reported during the same time frame in 2022, but this crime type will likely remain one that continues to affect the city and region for some time to come.
  - The majority of the catalytic converter thefts in Cambridge in recent years have involved 2004-2009 Toyota Priuses.
  - Thus far in 2023, the majority of the catalytic converter theft activity has been reported overnight in the upper half of Cambridge, north and west of Harvard Square.

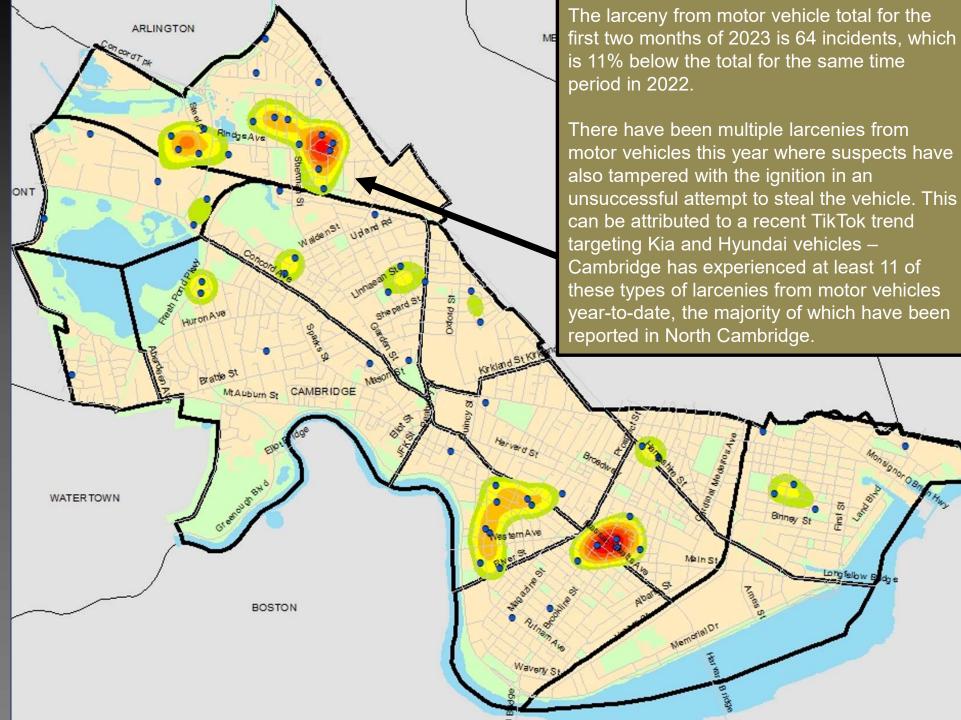


Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average +7% -11% 0%

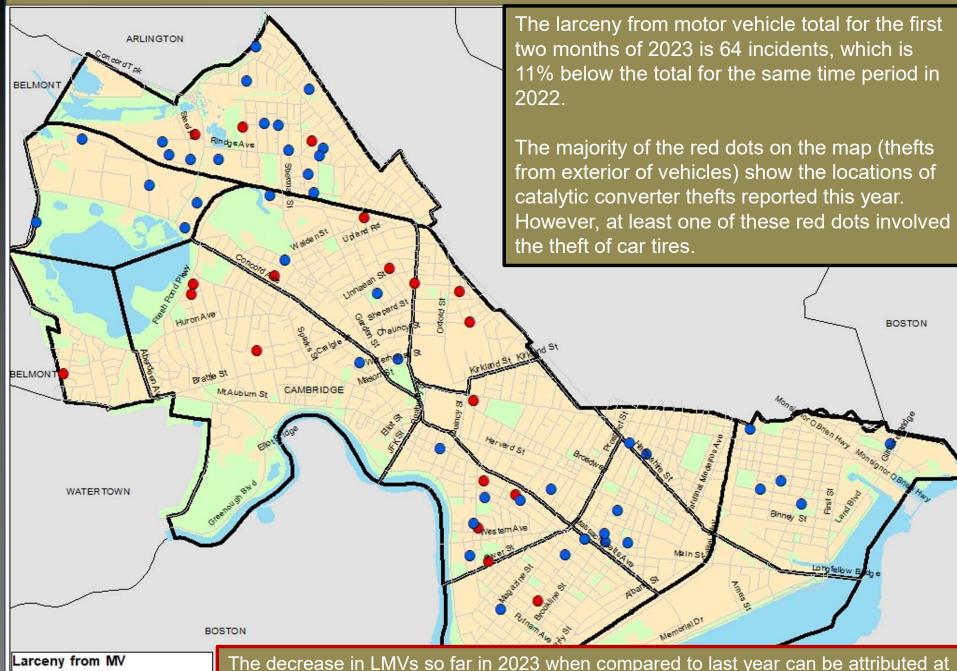




# Geographic Breakdown of Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



# Another Look at Larceny from Motor Vehicles: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



least in part to a drop in catalytic converter thefts this month—in 2022, 26 were

reported through February, while only 17 have been reported so far this year.

February 2023 Larceny from MV

Theft from Exterior of MV



LARCENY from Person
No Patterns

**Percent Change** 

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year

4000/

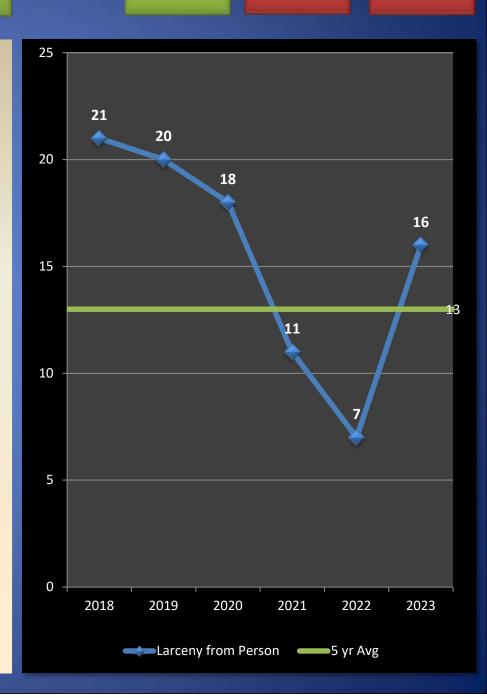
5-Year Average

0%

+129%

+23%

- Larcenies from the person during the first two months of 2023 increased by nine incidents (129%) over the same time period in 2022 and rose by three incidents when comparing 2023 to the fiveyear average of 13. Eight thefts were reported in both the past four weeks (February) and the previous four weeks (January).
- Nine of the 16 incidents year-to-date in 2023 took place in Central Square. The other incidents took place throughout the city, with Harvard Square registering the next highest amount with three thefts, followed by one each in the Cambridgeport/Riverside area, the East Cambridge/CambridgeSide area, the Alewife/West Cambridge area, and the Kendall Square/MIT area. This crime type has returned to pre-COVID levels after experiencing substantial reductions during 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-related closures and restrictions around the City.
- In recent years, higher numbers in Central Square have mainly been due to grab-and-run situations and/or incidents that involved individuals who are unhoused whose property may have been stolen while they were asleep or otherwise distracted. Five of the nine thefts in Central Square thus far in 2023 have fallen into these categories.





# LARCENY of Bicycle No Patterns

Percent Change

Last 4 Weeks Previous Year 5-Year Average

+35%

+67%

+21%

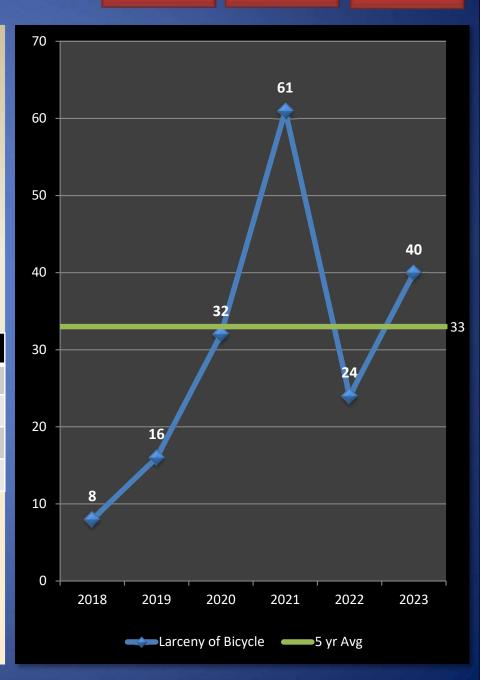
- Likely due at least in part to the warmer weather and limited snow this year, 2023 has started off with an increase in bike thefts when compared to 2022. Forty thefts were reported citywide through February 2023 compared to 24 through February 2022, equaling a 67% increase this year. Additionally, the 2023 total was 21% (seven incidents) above the five-year average of 33.
- February saw an increase in bike thefts when compared with January, with 17 thefts reported in January and 23 in February (up 35%).
- Of the 40 bike thefts reported so far in 2023, 32 (80%) were reportedly locked at the time of the theft.

#### Top Neighborhoods for Bike Thefts in 2023:

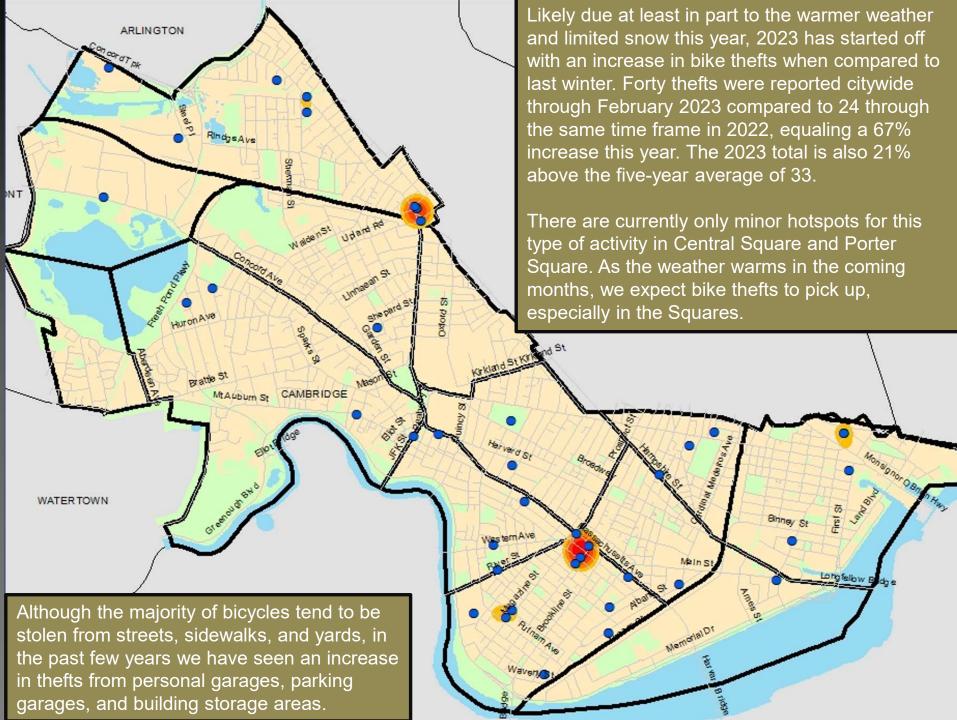
Neighborhood	YTD Total	% Citywide
Cambridgeport	10	25%
North Cambridge	8	20%
Riverside	5	13%
East Cambridge	4	10%

#### 2022 Review:

 Official numbers indicate that only 481 bicycle thefts were reported citywide in 2022 compared to the 623 in 2021, equaling a 23% drop. The 2022 total was also 6% below the five-year average of 514.

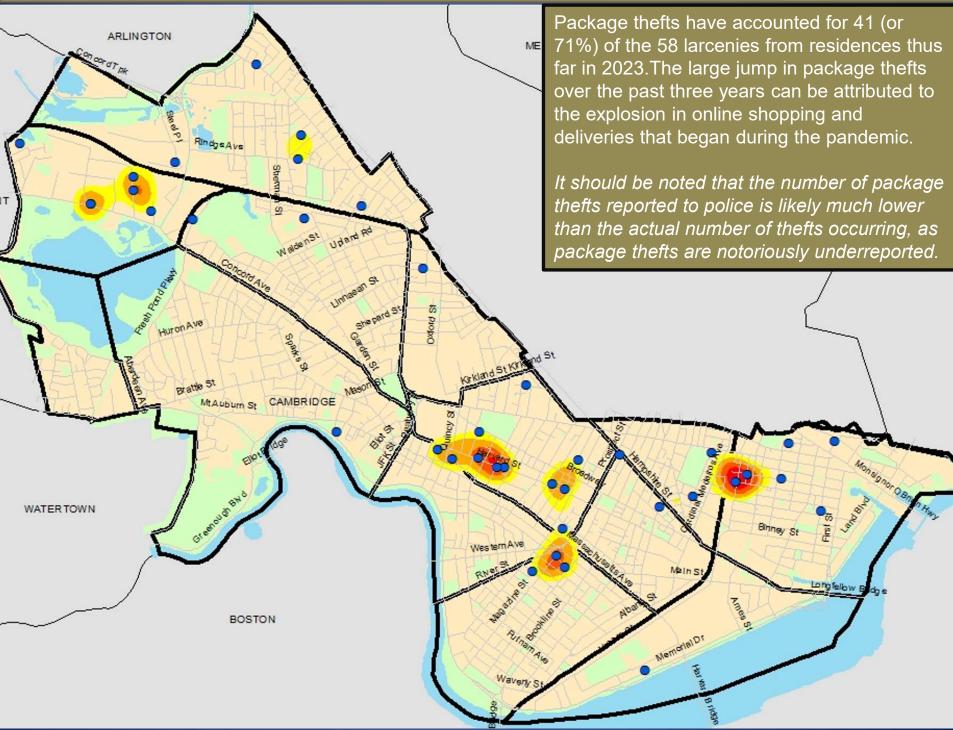


# Geographic Breakdown of Larceny of Bicycles: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



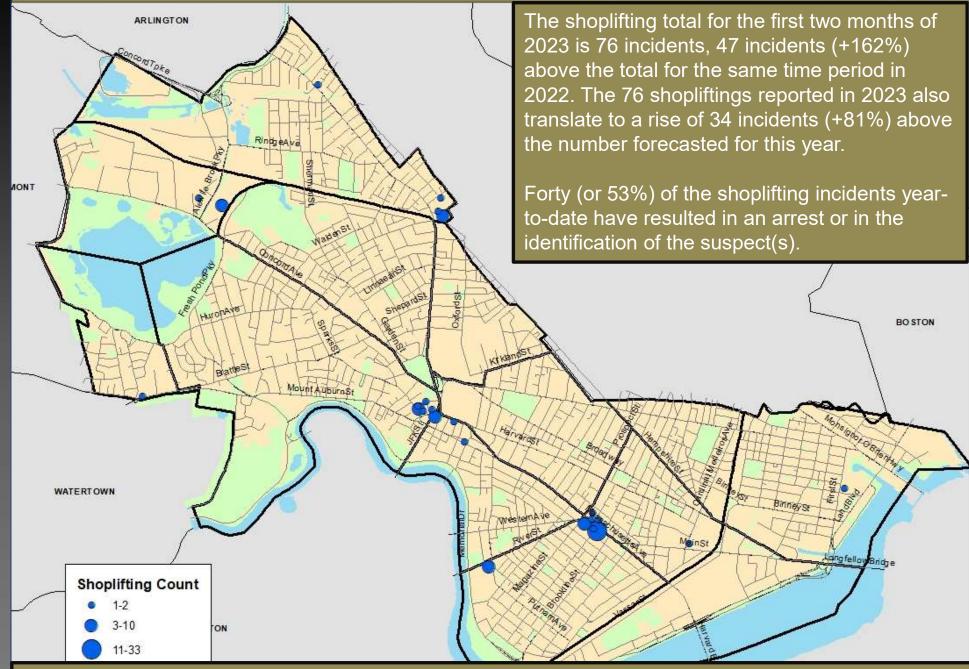


# Geographic Breakdown of Package Thefts: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23





# Geographic Breakdown of Shoplifting: 1.1.23 – 2.27.23



February 2023 Target in Central Sq has reported the most shoplifting incidents so far this year with 33 thefts, followed by the Target in Porter Sq with seven thefts. The CambridgeSide Shopping Center—one of the top hotspots prior to the pandemic—has seen only two shoplifting incidents this year.

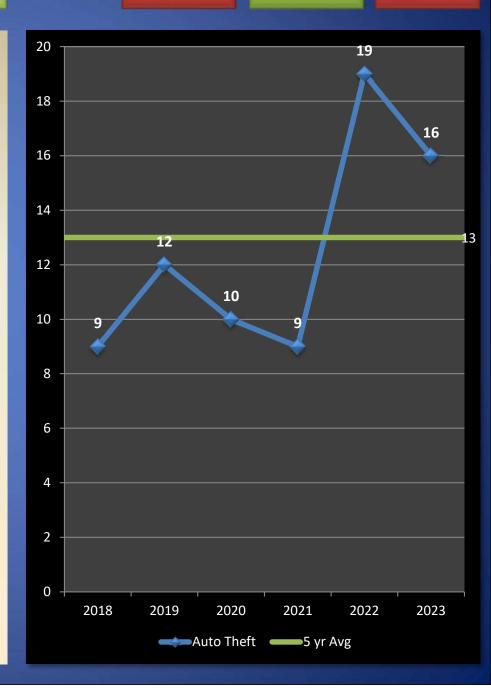


# **AUTO THEFT**

No Patterns

- The five-year weighted average for auto thefts through February 27<sup>th</sup> is 13, and with 16 reported so far in 2023, Cambridge has experienced an increase of 23% above the expected total. However, auto thefts in 2023 are down 16% below last year's total of 19 through February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- When comparing the most recent four weeks (February) to the previous four weeks (January), auto thefts increased by 100%, with five more incidents reported in February than in January.
- The neighborhood breakdown for auto theft totals so far in 2023 is as follows: Highlands 4; Cambridgeport 3; North Cambridge 3; Inman/Harrington 2; West Cambridge 1; Baldwin 1; The Port 1; and Mid-Cambridge 1.
- Last year, there were multiple thefts reported where the operator left the vehicle unlocked and running in order to deliver a package or grab food. When the victim returned, the vehicle was gone. There have been five similar thefts so far in 2023.
- There is an emerging trend in Cambridge and regionally of Kia and Hyundai thefts due to a recent TikTok trend targeting these vehicles. There have been three of these thefts so far in 2023, as well as multiple breaks into these model cars, as mentioned on the Larceny from Motor Vehicle map on slide 18.
- Five of the 16 vehicles reported stolen so far in 2023 have been recovered to date.









# **Help Prevent Crime**

And keep yourself informed!

# To receive information from the CPD:

- Sign up with for the Cambridge Alert
   Network, to receive alerts about
   emerging crime patterns, neighborhood
   meetings, and crime prevention tips, by
   visiting
- www.CambridgeMa.gov/AlertNetwork.
- "Like" the Cambridge Police Department on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CambridgePolice
- Follow <a>@CambridgePolice</a> on Twitter.
- Visit our website at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org</u> for valuable information and reports including the Daily Log and BridgeStat, which is published on the first Friday of every month.
- Download our "MyPD" smartphone app at <u>www.CambridgePolice.org/MyPD</u>.

# To Share Information with the CPD:

- Call our Non-Emergency Telephone Number at 617-349-3300.
  - Every call for service generates a police response, so help drive our resources by reporting things that seem suspicious or out of the ordinary.
- Send an Anonymous TEXT-A-TIP:
  - Send an ANONYMOUS text message to Tip411 (847411). Begin your message with Tip650 and then type your message. You will receive a response from the Cambridge Police with the option to continue communicating. Please remember that this is not a replacement for 9-1-1. If you witness an emergency situation, please call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Send an Anonymous Crime Tip E-Mail at www.CambridgePolice.org/Tips